

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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*Need ideas to spruce up Arbor Day?
See page 2*

Coordinator's Column

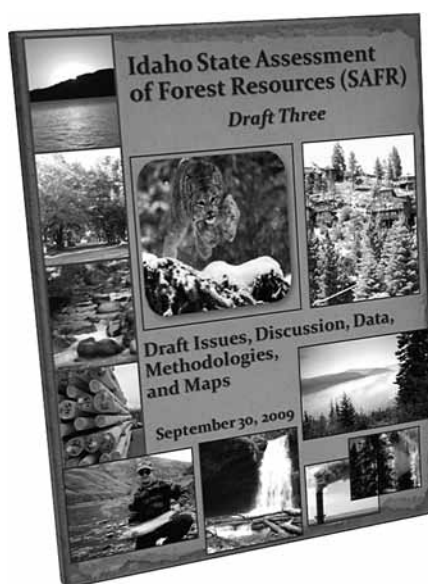
State Assessment of Forest Resources

A new way of doing business by focusing on issues in high priority areas to achieve measurable outcomes

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has provided technical assistance, education and grants to Idaho cities since the early 1990's with the goal of helping them develop sustainable, well-managed community forestry programs. Funding for these efforts comes primarily through the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Branch of the USDA Forest Service. Other S&PF programs include Forest Stewardship—helping private landowners with forest management planning and activities; Forest Legacy—helping fund conservation easements that keep working forests working; Forest Health—managing problems related to insects, diseases and abiotic causes; and Hazard Fuels Mitigation—working with counties to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities.

In the past, technical assistance and grant dollars for program activities have been provided primarily to those who request it. Within the community forestry program, we have focused on activities such as tree planting, inventories and management planning, expecting that these efforts will help communities develop well-managed, sustainable tree management programs. This first-come, first-served delivery system focused on core program activities and has been used with the other S&PF programs as well.

Over the years, these programs have accomplished a lot of very good things. However, assistance efforts haven't been particularly targeted. Are the things we've been doing what is needed most? Are the areas in which we've provided this assistance those that can realize the greatest benefits? These questions are not so important when resources are sufficient to do all that is needed, but they rarely are. To this



Representatives from tribes, private and industrial forestry organizations, conservation groups, state advisory committees and a dozen state and federal land management agencies have produced this document that will help guide the distribution of federal funds for urban and rural forestry in the future.

end, a significant “redesign” of S&PF programs is underway. Rather than focusing on individual *programs*, future efforts will instead focus on addressing the most important *issues* facing states in the areas where assistance will achieve the greatest benefits.

Key components of what is being called the ‘S&PF Redesign’ are a geo-spatial “State Assessment of Forest Resources,” or SAFR, and a companion Resource Strategy. Their purpose is to:

- Describe forest conditions on all ownerships in the state, from downtowns to tree line
- Identify forest-related benefits and services
- Highlight issues and trends of concern as well as opportunities for positive action
- Delineate high priority forest landscapes to be addressed
- Outline broad strategies for addressing the critical issues and landscapes identified through the assessment

The Idaho Department of Lands is currently working with a broad array of stakeholder agencies and organizations on the SAFR. Once complete, these documents will guide all future assistance provided through S&PF programs.

For more information on the State Assessment, including a list of key issues in Idaho, issue maps, a draft final map of priority areas and a description of the data and models used to inform the issues, I invite you to visit the Idaho SAFR website at http://www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/ForestAssist/safr_index.html.

-- David Stephenson, Community Forestry Coordinator

Start Planning Now to Enhance Your Next Arbor Day Celebration

Spring and Arbor Day may seem like a long way off, but why not start now to do something special next April?

Here's an example from Moscow. Tree Commission Chairman David Rauk thought it would be nice to have a ceremonial shovel that could be used each year at the Arbor Day Ceremony. The University of Idaho uses such a shovel at its ceremonial tree plantings – in this case, the shovel first used by Theodore Roosevelt when he planted a tree outside the Administration Building a hundred years ago.

Mayor Nancy Chaney liked David's idea and suggested that a shovel handle be crafted by one of the city's wood artisans. This, she said, would not only start the tradition but also highlight the re-use of urban wood. In Moscow, City Forester Roger Blanchard offers the wood of trees taken down in parks and rights-of-way to woodworkers, so he contacted one of them, Luke Sheneman, who also liked the idea. Refusing pay for his service, Luke crafted the handle from a maple that had been taken down, and an appropriate metal plate was engraved and added to it.

What special touch can you think of for Arbor Day? Or what kind of program would add to the excitement and educational value of the event? Now is the time to start planning, and you can always visit arborday.org/arborday/celebrate.cfm for more ideas.



Margaret Littlejohn

Mayor Nancy Chaney was the first in what will be a long line of mayors to use Moscow's new ceremonial shovel. Artisan / woodworker Luke Sheneman crafted the handle from part of a recycled maple tree and shared the occasion with the mayor last Arbor Day.

Volunteer Tree Pruners Being Sought

Are there limbs from newly planted street trees that are sure to be too low over sidewalks in your community? Or do you have young trees with double tops or that otherwise need some corrective pruning to get them off to a better start in life? Here is what a group of northern Idaho cities is doing to address these issues and at the same time educate and involve people who like trees. As an added bonus, a project like this is sure to build support for community forestry and bring 'new blood' into tree committees and boards.

The new program is designed to improve the future of young trees in public places. The program is called "Volunteers in Pruning" (V.I.P.) and will teach local residents how to prune recently planted trees for form

and structure. The project will target trees that were planted within the last three years. This is the best time to establish good tree form and correct any structural problems that can lead to hazards or tree failure as the trees become older. It also assures that the trees are low enough for laymen to prune safely.

The V.I.P. project is being organized by Community Canopy, a tree care education coalition made up of the cities of Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Hayden, and the Spokane County Conservation District. These communities are pooling resources to train volunteers and supply them with tools needed to do the pruning. Each community's forestry program will choose which public trees will be targeted for pruning. It is expected to be a combina-

tion of park trees and street trees. People who take care of other trees in public places, such as church members and homeowners association workers, are also encouraged to attend a training session.

Individuals, 16 years of age or older, interested in the V.I.P. program are invited to attend a three hour training session. Two training sessions are being held: Saturday, October 24th at the Hayden Library and Saturday, October 31st at the Spokane County Conservation District Office. The training is free in exchange for putting in volunteer hours pruning public trees. Because of limited space, pre-registration is encouraged. For more information or to register, please contact Katie at 208/415-0415 or Garth at 509/535-7274.

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For address changes, program assistance or additional information, contact Community Forestry Coordinator, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 3780 Industrial Ave. South, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; 1-800-IDAHO4U = 1-800-432-4648 or 208/666-8621; fax 208/769-1524; e-mail communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov.

Field Contacts

Northern Idaho: Northwest Management, Inc., W. 21 Commerce Dr., Ste. G, Hayden, Idaho 83835. Ph. 208-772-8554 (colla@consulting-foresters.com)
Southern Idaho: Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964 (gabates@cableone.net).

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Assuring Trees in New Developments

Tree-lined streets with all their practical and aesthetic benefits just don't happen by chance. Recognizing this, some communities have passed strict ordinances requiring developers to plant street trees. Others have no requirements and planting is spotty, at best. A compromise measure is used in Moscow and some other Idaho communities that spreads the financial responsibility for planting and helps assure continuing care for the tree by involving the new home owner. Here is how it works:

The developer must contribute \$100 per tree into a fund maintained by the city. Normally, there will be space for two large trees, so the developer pays \$200 per lot. For corner lots the amount is \$400. For odd-shaped lots or other unusual circumstances, the city forester makes a decision on the amount.

The person who purchases the home receives a voucher for the amount contributed by the developer for that lot. He/she also receives instructions and a list of appropriate and prohibited street trees. Because 8-foot planting strips are now required in Moscow's developments and because of the long-term benefits of large-maturing trees, the homeowner is encouraged (but not required) to plant accordingly.

The homeowner takes the voucher to a local nursery and selects the trees and does the planting and care. The site is checked by the city forester for compliance.

The nursery uses the voucher to bill the city.

If a homeowner does not want trees and does not use the voucher, the money remains in the city's fund and after 10 years is used to plant trees in public areas serving the neighborhood.

Experience has shown that about 90% of the home buyers take advantage of this program. Unfortunately, it does not work as well with out-of-town duplex or apartment building owners. To address that problem, the city contacts the owner, explains the voucher system, and offers to have local volunteers plant and provide care of the trees for two years.

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Municipal Arborist (MA), Utility Arborist (UA), and Certified Tree Worker (CTW) written Exams

November 6—Salt Lake City, UT (CA, MA, UA)¹

January (Date to be announced) — Boise, ID (CA)²

¹For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@Yahoo.com.

²For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org

Calendar—Fall/Winter 2009-2010

November 4-5

Arborist School — Salt Lake City, UT. (For more information, call 801/446-8229, or visit http://www.utahurban-forest.org/SALT_LAKE_Arborist_Brochure_NOV2009.pdf)

November 9-11

Partners in Community Forestry National Conference — Doubletree Hotel, Portland, OR. (Conference information is at arborday.org/programs/index.cfm (click link at right on the page).)

January 20-22, 2010

2010 Idaho Horticulture Expo—Boise Centre on the Grove, Boise, ID. (Ann Bates, 800/INA-GROW or http://www.inlagrow.org/expo_2010.htm)

February 4-5, 2010

Turf, Tree and Landscape Conference — Mirabeau Hotel East, Spokane, WA. (WSU Conference Office at 800/942-4978 or <http://conferences.wsu.edu/TTLC/>)

Urban Natural Resources Institute Webcasts.

These are free 1 hour seminars you can watch and participate in from your computer. Go to <http://www.unri.org/webcasts/> for more information

- November 18 – Urban Forest Scientific Research Activities & Resources
- December 16 – IPED – Pest Detection Protocol

Two Self-Teaching Aids Available

Plant identification is basic to community forestry and landscaping. Many city workers with responsibilities for parks and trees feel inadequate in this area of their work. To address this problem, the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association has produced a CD that can help users learn over 150 trees, shrubs, groundcover, ornamental grasses, vines and other perennial plants. Titled **Plant ID Study Guide**, the CD contains colorful pictures, common and Latin names, and plant descriptions. It is available for \$15.95 plus shipping. To order, contact INLA at 1-800-462-4769 or visit www.inlagrow.org/cltp.htm.

With the management of stormwater becoming an ever-increasing issue, this website may be of help in finding low tech solutions to what can be large and expensive problems. Considerable information is available at **Stormwater Management – Using Trees and Structural Soil to Improve Water Quality**. You can find it at: <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/urbanforestry/stormwater>.



University of Idaho

Department of Conservation Social Sciences
PO Box 441139
Moscow, ID 83844-1139

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Tree tip



Save it



*Wait
and See*



*Say
Goodbye*

Don't Panic When Storms Strike

When the winter winds blow and the snow and ice accumulate on tree branches, there is sure to be some breakage. Folks with a chainsaw and a truck — well-meaning or otherwise — often appear at such times and offer to take down your tree. Or, you may be tempted to do it yourself.

Many trees look worse than they are. Take some time and evaluate the tree, and/or invite a certified arborist to give you an opinion. Before considering removal, think about:

- * Is the tree otherwise healthy, vigorous and safe?
- * Is it a desirable species and in the right place?
- * Is at least 50% of the crown still intact?
- * If the trunk is gouged, is it less than 1/3 the circumference?
- * Can pruning be done to remove stubs or broken branches?

Source: Courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation